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SCARY GODMOTHER

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THE MYSTERY DATE

BY JILL THOMPSON

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A SCARY GODMOTHER STORY
BY
JILL THOMPSON
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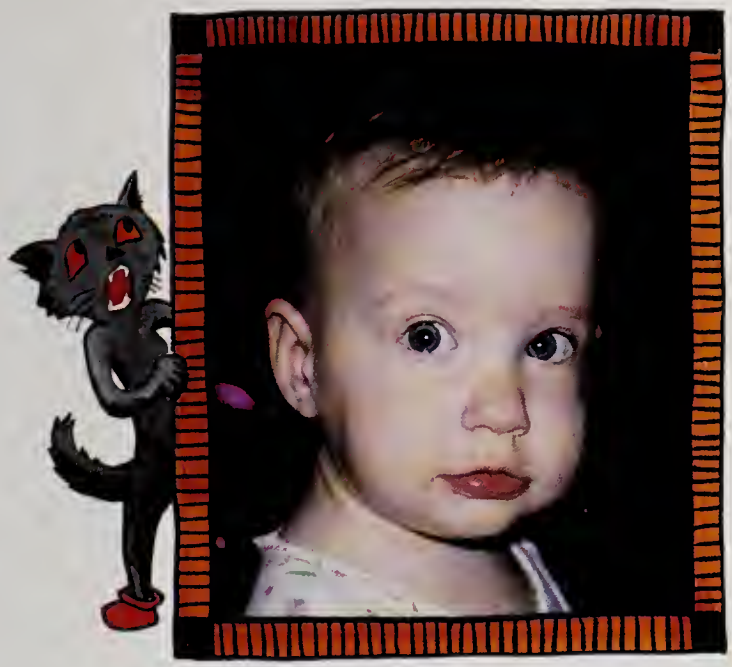

Dedicated to

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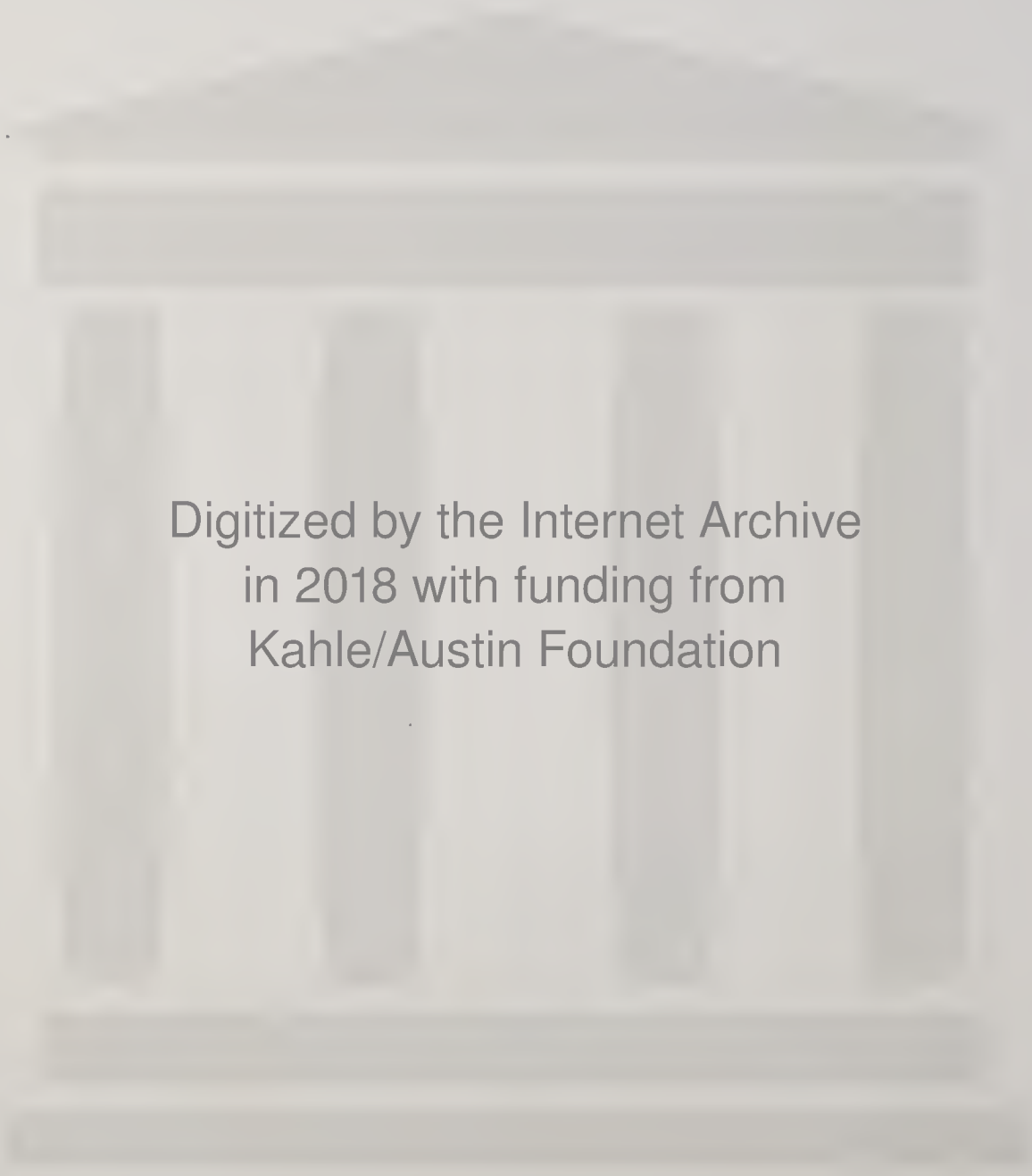
Liam

and

Abby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Buried Alive! With every turn the car made, Hannah Marie was covered in candy corns, pummeled by pumpkins and battered by bats. As her mom pulled the car into the driveway, Hannah hollered...

WHOA! MOM! Take it EASY! YOU'RE GONNA RUIN ALL OF THE HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS AND SQUASH ME LIKE A PUN'KIN!
RIP
FULL MOON PIES
SWEET CANDY CORNS
SORRY I'm IN SUCH a RUSH, HONEY... I've NEVER ORGANIZED A HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY BEFORE. THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO!

If Hannah survived the ride home, she could help her mom with the party plans.

You see, her parents were hosting a Halloween party so big, that the entire neighborhood could come. The block would be closed to traffic so there could be games and dancing in the street! Everyone would decorate their houses and make treats to share. Hannah's mom was in charge of the planning and she checked her guest list to make sure she hadn't forgotten anyone.

MOM! WHAT ABOUT THE MONSTERS? YOU FORGOT TO INVITE THEM!
OH, HA HA! OF COURSE, HONEY... INVITE ALL THE MONSTERS YOU LIKE, IT IS HALLOWEEN!

Hannah rushed to her room, to make invitations for all of the Monsters she knew.

So, at bedtime, when all of the other kids in town did their best to avoid the Monster under the bed...

ALL CLEAR OF MONSTERS.
Let's make a BREAK FOR it!
JUMP to the BED... it's NOT too FAR..
don't touch the floor...
HONEY! DARYL FELL ASLEEP ON the COUCH AGAIN!
Just LEAVE HIM! He GETS CRABBY when YOU TRY AND PUT HIM in HIS BED...
Hee Hee!

...Hannah addressed him by name...

...and the Monster under the bed grumbled back at her.

Visiting the place where Monsters dwell can be a rather tricky procedure, unless of course, you're friends with a Monster or two like little Hannah is. She followed the secret steps as Bug-A-Boo looked on. This is what she did...

Get up on the FRIGHT Side of my Bed...
YUP
Open the closet door and close my eyes...
CLIK
Step on over to...
...the FRIGHT Side!
Hi, Hannah! You're just in time to help us with our newest batch of Jack 'O' Lanterns!

The Fright Side is the spooky place where Hannah's Scary Godmother lives. She shares her house with Boozle, her ghostie, Mister Pettibone, the Skeleton in the Closet and Bug-A-Boo, the Monster Under the Bed. They are always doing Halloween things and Hannah can visit them whenever she likes.

Hannah helped move sinister squash outside to the Scary Godmother's porch. Mister Pettibone was quick as a flash, and with only one match, he'd lit up all the jagged-edged faces!

Pulling the pile of party invitations from her pajamas, Hannah asked each of her pals to attend. The creatures roared with dark delight at the prospect of a party.

With Hannah strapped on to her comfy-seat broom, the Scary Godmother flew nearly as high as the moon. Why? To deliver those invitations Fright Side style, of course--by Scare Mail!

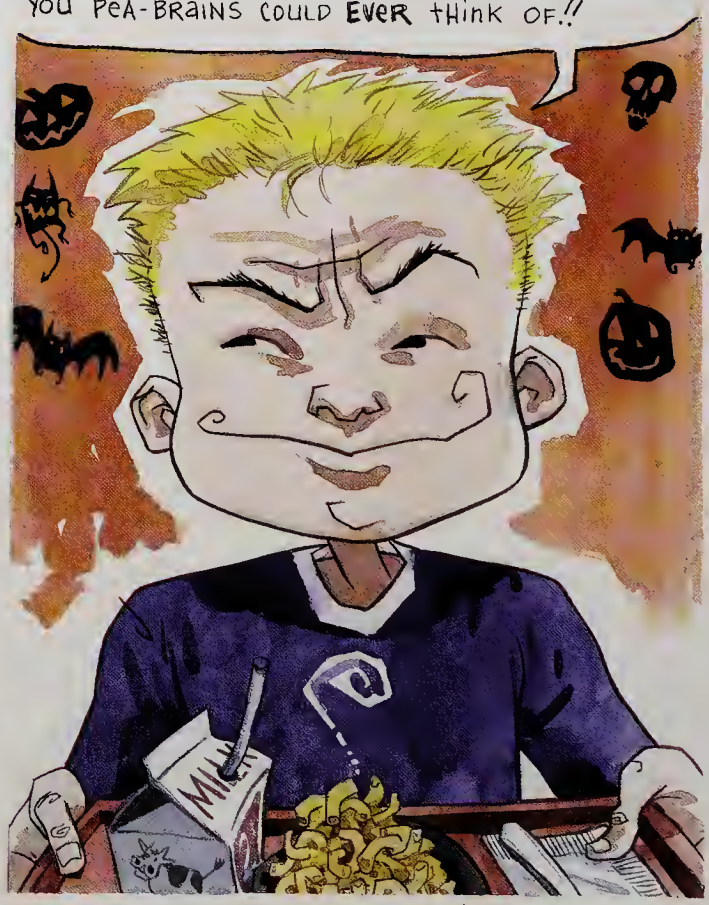
The vampires who lived next door to the Scary Godmother accepted...

...as did the Werewolf in the forest (and his mom...).

The patrons of the local watering hole were eager to attend.

During lunch, the kids grew excited as the plans for the party progressed. Hannah's cousin Jimmy listened as they bragged to each other.

GLUG! GLG... I'M BRING-GLUG--ING TAFFY APPLES!
GRAVEYARD CAKES...
GREAT! MONSTERS LOVE THAT KINDA STUFF!
YOU'LL LOVE OUR FORTUNE TELLER....
...PUMPKIN SLICES...
WIZ BOO
AMES!
NOTHING'S BETTER THAN MY GRANDMA'S PEANUT BRITTLE!
TONS OF CANDY!
WE'RE BRINGIN' HOMEMADE CARAMEL CORN!
WE'RE GONNA USE OUR GRILL TO MAKE STUFF FOR THE PARTY...



There was much to do at the Scary Godmother's house before All Hallow's Eve: scattering spider webbing, squeaking every door, releasing vintage spirits, toasting treats and more. Hannah always lent a helping hand. Amidst the autumn activity, Bug-A-Boo almost went unnoticed, which is hard to do when you're a big, blue Monster!

It was Orson, the Vampire boy, who first noticed the mysterious letter.

STATIC CLING IS ONE OF THE FEW HAZARDS OF MY JOB.
THERE'S DUST BUNNIES, CANDY WRAPPERS, SOME UNDERPANTS.... THERE'S EVEN A MESSAGE FOR THE SCARY GODMOTHER!
SCARY GODMOTHER

The Scary Godmother plucked the paper from Bug-A-Boo's prickly fur and read it.

Mister Pettibone popped out of the closet with an answer.

Bug-A-Boo crunched out a crispy explanation (complete with crumbs)...

KRUNCH!
that's easy! it's a person that follows yer every move, knows all about you, leaves stuff on yer door step...
But you don't know who they are!!
um... that's kinda creepy... and I mean yucky creepy, not fun creepy!
it's because they like you, but they're too shy to tell you.
it looks like you've got yourself a mystery date!

...which Mister Pettibone promptly corrected!

Hannah and Orson thought about the Secret Admirer: who could it be? The hatched a plan to identify the monstery, mystery man.

Y'KNOW, ORSON, I'LL Bet if that SecRet ADMIRER THOUGHT the Scary GODMOTHER LIKED HIM TOO, He WOULDN'T Be so SHY...
YEAH! AND THEN He WOULD ASK HER IN PERSON to GO to the PARTY.
Hey! THAT Gives me AN IDEA!

When no one was looking, they sneaked out the door into the Fright Side Night.

ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN DRIVE THAT THING?
SURE! I've RIDDEN WITH SCARY GODMOTHER A BUNCH OF TIMES.
I JUST HAVE to FIGURE OUT WHAT MAKES IT GO UP

I GUESS the MAGIC WORDS ARE "GO UP."
LOOKS LIKE IT.
SO, WHERE DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD SEARCH FIRST?
THE CEMETARY!
'NARY A GHOST.
DIABLO BROTHERS PIZZA PLACE?
NOTHING HERE, BUT A SMALL PIZZA PIE.
PUMPKIN PATCH?
Not even the JACK'O' LANTERN MAN...

The tiny detectives looked far and wide, searching every haunted hang-out on the Fright Side. Just when they thought their luck had run out, they came upon something that caused them to shout...

The Monster Truck Rally was a Frightful Phantom Fest. Monster men brought their mean machines and put them to the test. Surely the Scary Godmother's secret admirer was in this creepy crowd. Dastardly devils, enthusiastic ectoplasm, rambunctious revenants, wild werewolves--you name it and it was there!

Like flies at a picnic, they flitted around, dropping choice tidbits: gossip unbound! A little whisper here, and a bit of stretched-truth there...and they set their plan in motion.

BOY, THAT'S A REALLY NICE BIKE! NO WONDER THE SCARY GODMOTHER WANTS TO GO FOR A RIDE WITH YOU. SHE LIKES BIKERS!
WOW, PROFESSOR TOAD! SCARY GODMOTHER WAS RIGHT! YOU ARE THE BEST AT FIXING THINGS. WHAT A BRAIN!
MONSTER TRUCK RA
FIRST A
MMM! THOSE SNACKS SMELL AS GOOD AS THE ONES THE SCARY GODMOTHER MAKES.
SHE LOVES COOKING FOR FOLKS.
SHE ALWAYS SAID SHE LIKED A MAN WITH A HEALTHY APPETITE!
!
Diablo Bros
Sinfully Delicious
PIZZA
POPCORN
HOT-DOGS
...LIKES SLIMEY SCALES.
...LOVES POINTY TAILS!

Sure they were fibs, but a few, harmless, little, white lies wouldn't cause any trouble--would they?

As they took to the skies, the conspirators congratulated themselves on a job quite well done...

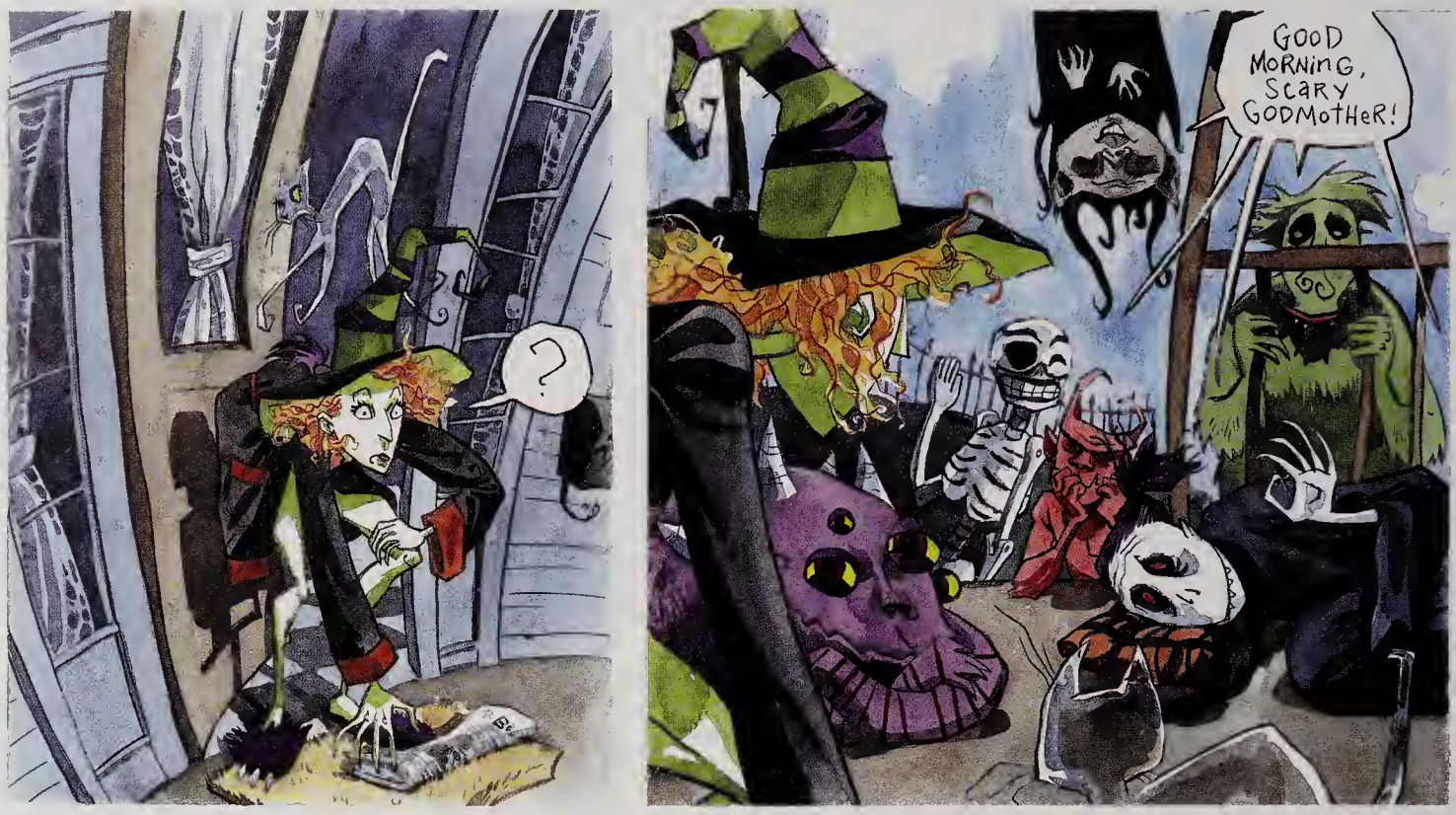
...unaware of just what their work had begun...

...unaware of how Monsters love competition for fun!

And as quick as a flash, once the word got around...eligible Monsters shambled their way into town!

With moans, groans and grumbles, in groups of two, three and four...they made their way up to the Scary Godmother's door.

They camped out on her doorstep...



...cooked her nine breakfast treats.

They lie down in some puddles...

...to keep mud off her feets.

They made monster music...

...to serenade her at night.

PSST! IS SHE LOOKIN'? I CAN'T SEE!
A WRESTLING FAN MUST LOVE THE LUCHADORE!
IF SHE IS, I'LL BET THAT SHE'S ROOTING FOR ME!
SHE'LL DOFF APPRECIATE THE BUMPS I CAN TAKE!

They trampled her garden with their wrestling fights!

While watching T.V...

...or taking a bath...

...Monsters popped up in Scary Godmother's path.

And on her way home from the gross-ery store...

...the confused, little spookstress could take it no more!

The Scary Godmother frantically huffed and puffed her way back home.

SKULLY! HELP ME! THE WORLD'S GONE CRAZY! MY FRIGHT SIDE FRIENDS HAVE ALL FREAKED OUT.
THEY KEEP GOOGLIN' THEIR EYES AT ME, BARING THEIR FANGS, FLEXING THEIR MUSCLES...
...AND a HEADLESS HORSEMAN'S HEAD WANTED TO KISS ME WITHOUT EVER HAVING BEEN INTRODUCED!
OOP! THERE HE IS NOW!

Skully Pettibone, the Skeleton in the Closet, was the keeper of all secrets. He popped out of the armoire to clarify the situation.

Hannah and Orson 'fessed up as Bug-A- Boo came home.

YOU TOLD ALL THE MONSTERS AT THE MONSTER TRUCK RALLY THAT I LIKED THEM?
THAT I LIKE LIKED THEM?
WELL, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THERE ARE ABOUT A BA-JILLION MONSTERS OUT ON THE LAWN.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HALF OF THOSE CREATURES!
CHALK THAT UP TO COMPETETIVE SPIRIT! ONCE THE WORD GOT AROUND, ALL THE GUYS WANTED TO WIN THE PRIZE... EVEN IF THE PRIZE IS YOU, PAL!
ha. ha.
WHAT I MEAN IS, MONSTERS LOVE TWO THINGS — CANDY AN' COMPETITION! THAT'S WHY WE HOLD SO MANY CONTESTS.
YOU GOTTA GO OUT THERE AND PICK ONE OF 'EM OR ELSE THEY'LL NEVER STOP BUGGIN' YA.

And so, the Scary Godmother...ventured...outside to set things straight.

Hi, SCARY GODMOTHER!
?
UM... GOOD EVENING FELLOWS! I JUST WANT to LET YOU KNOW THAT I THINK YOU'RE ALL DELIGHTFULLY FRIGHTFUL!
YOU ALL SEND THE SHIVERS UP MY SPINE!
SO- WILL THE MONSTER WHO WROTE THIS NOTE PLEASE STEP FORWARD!
WILL YOU meet me at the Halloween Block Party? From an admirer

From nightmare to ghoul, the paper was passed around.

Amongst all of these monsters, the author was not found!

"Not me! Not me!" each monster explained as they took to the air or shambled back to coffins and caves.

The Scary Godmother exclaimed once they were out of sight...

On Halloween Day, Hannah's street was blocked off, so cars could not drive down it. Each family brought their treats and decorations to the sidewalk and by nightfall, the Haunted carnival was complete.

Hannah slipped on her costume and ran lickety-split, out to join the fun.

And what did our Scary Godmother do? Well, she got all gussied up!

From her head...

... to her toes.

She dressed in her most witchified, Hallow's Eve clothes! (with all of the necessary accessor-aries...)

When the Monsters arrived...

WATCH it, BALDY! Just 'cuz you got a good costume doesn't mean you can cut in line
DEVIL Dogs From the grill OF Hades!!
BALDY?
RRRRAAAAA

...they chased children with glee!

While the Scary Godmother stood waiting under a tree.

She waited...

...and waited...

....
I really thought that felt like BRAINS! OH! Hi, Scary Godmother
Nope, brains are much, much heavier!
Let's Go drink from the Hot Chocolate cauldron...

...and waited.

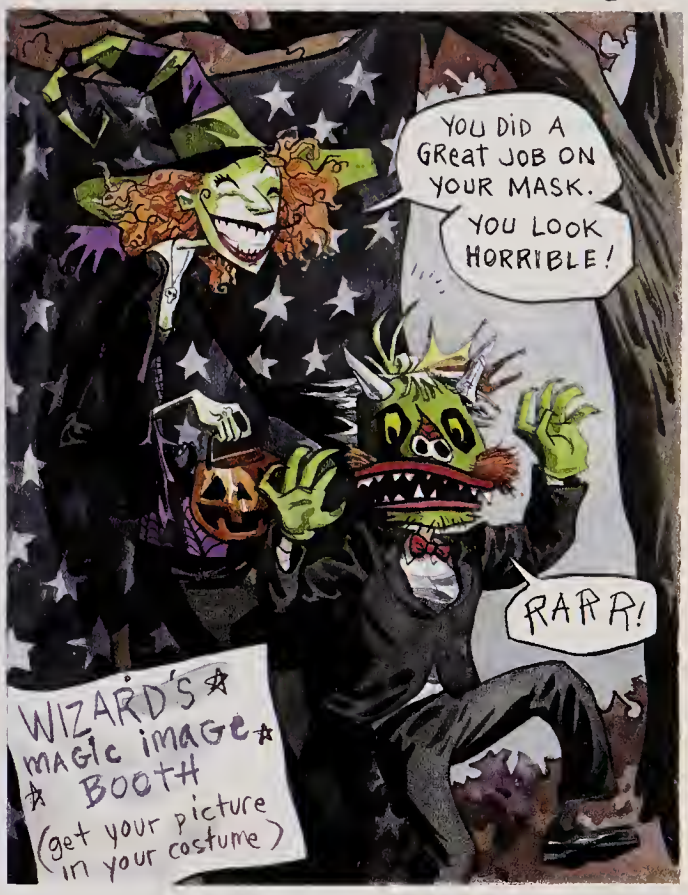
mumble grumble..
WOW! You're STILL WAITING? You're Gonna Miss the JACK'O' LANTERN CONTEST AND the GRAVE YARD CAKES!
YEAH, COME WITH US. WE STILL HAVE to BOB FOR APPLES.
YOU CAN BOB FIRST. We won't LAUGH if YOUR HAIR Gets Wet. WELL, NOT MUCH.
AND I'LL Get You DRINKS AND CAKE!
HOLD it FELLA! THAT'S MY JOB!
SORRY I'M LATE...

It was Jimmy who stepped up to escort the Scary Godmother to the festivities! He had said that he'd bring something none of the other kids would guess...and boy, was he right! He brought a Date!

MAKE WAY! THE KING OF THE MONSTERS AND HIS DATE ARE COMING THROUGH!
YOU'D BETTER SPEAK LOUDER, JIMMY... I THINK THERE MIGHT BE ONE OR TWO PEOPLE NOT LOOKING AT US.

Anyone could say they've brought a favorite cake or treat to a party...but how many could claim to have brought the Queen of Halloween?

So the King of the Monsters and his Halloween Queen enjoyed their All Hallow's evening.



JIMMY, DON'T YOU THINK I'M A LITTLE OLD FOR YOU?
ANYBODY WHO'S ALL ABOUT MONSTERS AN' SPIDERS AN' CANDY IS THE PERFECT GIRL FOR ME. BESIDES....

Refreshments were in order after all of that fun, so the creepy couple crept over to the table of treats.

But when they got there...

OH NO! ALL OF THE TREATS HAVE BEEN EATEN!
NO PUMPKIN SLICES! NO TAFFY APPLES! NOT EVEN A PIECE OF GRAVE YARD CAKE!
THEY WERE GOOD.
FORTUNE tell
DON'T WORRY, PAL. I'M THE SCARY GODMOTHER. I'VE GOT THE TREAT ANGLE COVERED...
RATS. ALL GONE!

THE END

TO:
SCARY GODMOTHER

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MIKE MIGNOLA
[illegible]reator of HELLBOY

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